modest uranium and vast thorium resources. Large scale thorium utilization is contemplated in the third stage of this programme, where uranium-233 bred in Fast Breeder Reactors of the second stage, will be used together with thorium.

The government has taken a number of steps to develop appropriate technologies for the utilization of thorium. A few of the major steps are:

(1) Setting up the research reactor Kamini at Kalpakkam using Uranium-233 fuel obtained from irradiated thorium. The reactor has been operating since 1997. The fuel for the reactor is bred, reprocessed and fabricated indigenously.

(2) Irradiation of thorium fuel bundles in research reactor at Trombay **and** in Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors **(PHWRs) has been** carried out.

(3) Design and development of Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR) using thorium based fuel. This reactor will serve as a technology demonstrator.

(c)Around 2,00,000 GW-yrear electricity potential exists in India using domestic thorium through the route of breeder technology.

Supply of uranium

1T399. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA: DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has held discussions with the countries other than the countries of World's non-atomic supply group for the supply of uranium;

(b) if so, the names of these countries; and

(c) the reaction of these countries with regard to the supply of uranium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) The Government is examining all possibilities of accessing uranium with potential partners. However a change in terms of opening of international civil nuclear cooperation with India would be necessary to realize such a possibility.

Atomic power plants in Rajasthan

1400. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals to set up new atomic power plants in Rajasthan;

(b) what would be their production capacity;

(c) the quantum of power to be provided to the State from these plants;

(d) by when it would be possible; and

(e) what would **be** its cost?

t Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.